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PATENT

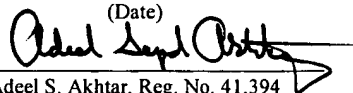
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : DeBoer et al.  
App. No. : 10/714,688  
Filed : November 17, 2003  
For : METHOD AND STRUCTURE  
FOR REDUCING CONTACT  
ASPECT RATIOS  
Class/Sub-Class : 438-254000  
Examiner : Bradley Smith

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

February 28, 2005

(Date)

  
Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants appreciate the finding of the pending claims to be allowable. In the Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner stated that "the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests within the context of the entire claim a [sic] wherein a lower most part of the conductive plug and a lower-most part of the electrical device are at a first level."

Applicants assume that, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, the Examiner has stated some, but not all, of the reasons for allowance of the claims and that, as a result, the statements discussed above do not necessarily relate to or completely set out the reasons for allowance of each and every claim. For example, Applicants submit that the claims depending from Claim 1



recite additional limitations distinguishing the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: February 28, 2005

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